



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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January 22, 2014

EARL RAY TOMBLIN
GOVERNOR

Ms. Patricia Hickman, Interim Director
Division of Land Restoration
West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection
601 57th Street SE
Charleston, West Virginia 25304-2345

Dear Ms. Hickman:

I fully support the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's application to obtain funding for assessment of the Kanawha Valley community recently affected by the Elk River chemical spill.

Since the 7,500-gallon spill of 4-methylcyclohexane methanol (Crude MCHM and PPH, stripped) into the Elk River on January 9, 2014, approximately 300,000 residents and several businesses within nine counties of West Virginia have been affected. I declared a State of Emergency for these counties and mobilized all appropriate government assets and resources to provide immediate assistance for West Virginia's residents; however, additional work must take place to evaluate the extent of contamination, protect the environment, and ensure the long-term health and safety of residents.

This funding will provide an essential assessment of the immediate contaminated area and any impacted areas associated with the spill, as well as vital community monitoring and screening to determine long-term effects for the impacted region.

I pledge my full support and assistance with the activities proposed within this grant application and look forward to working with the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Health and Human Resources Bureau of Public Health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Earl Ray Tomblin".

Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor

ERT:ph:bln